

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments to the specification and claims and the following remarks.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indication of allowability of claims 5 through 9. In response to that indication Applicants have carefully amended claim 1 to overcome both the informalities identified by the Examiner in the November 7, 2001 Office Action and to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 5. This would appear to place all of the remaining claims in condition for allowance.

The amendment to claim 1 suggests that claim 5 be cancelled and that claim 6 be made to depend on claim 1. These amendments have also been made. The amendment to claim 3 has also been made to correct an informality identified by the Examiner.

Applicants further acknowledge the Section 102 rejection of claims 10 and 11 on Schaller 5,645,443. These claims have been extensively amended and re-presented as claims 12 and 13 respectively. In the new claims the configuration of the stabs has been more carefully defined to emphasize the fact that each stab has longitudinal and transverse leg portions and that, after bending of the stabs, both leg portions are orthogonal to the plane of the original plate from which the stabs are formed. The term "regularly", as used in these claims, means that the spacing between stabs is uniform.

The structure defined in claim 12 and the method steps defined in claim 13 distinguish from Schaller in both structure and procedural steps. To be more specific, Schaller's legs 26 (FIG 6) have a first transverse portion which is contiguous with the original busbar plate and a second longitudinal portion 27 parallel to the longitudinal axis of the original plate. The fold lines 37 are located such that only the longitudinal portion 27 of the L-shaped appendage become octagonal.

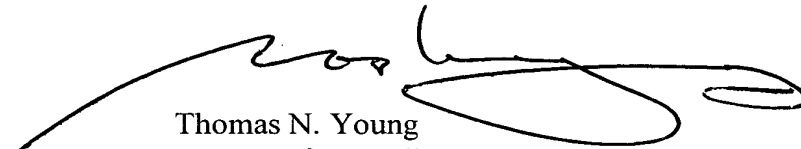
By contrast, the contiguous leg of Applicants' stab is the longitudinal leg and the fold line is located such that, after the folding step, both legs of the stabs are orthogonal to the plane of the original plate. More importantly, it can be seen in

Figure 6 that the length of the folded leg 27 defines the spacing between the legs in the original stamping; i.e., if legs 27 are to be longer, the spacing between the appendages must increase accordingly. By contrast, Applicants' legs 82 can be as long as one wishes without increasing the spacing between the stabs and without increasing the overall dimension of the plate 80. This is a significant advantage not found in Schaller.

Applicants believe that the application has been placed in condition for allowance. If the Examiner wishes to consult with Applicants' counsel on any issue a telephone consultation is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & BASILE, P.C.



Thomas N. Young
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 20,985
(248) 649-3333

3001 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 624
Troy, Michigan 48084-3107

Dated: January 8, 2002
TNY/redp

VERSION OF SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS
TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

[0027] (First Amendment) The preliminary configuration of the busbar 36; i.e., flat, rectangular and planar[, is] as shown in Figure 9, [as] is formed by a simple stamping operation. The horizontal dimension as shown in Figure 9 is deemed the longitudinal axis for purposes of description. Thereafter[,], the stabs 82 are bent or folded out of the plane of the plate 80 along fold lines 86 to provide the configuration shown in Figure 8. It will be noted that in this configuration the height of the stabs 82 is independent of the [spacing of the] lateral [space in] spacing between them. Therefore, tall stabs 82 both legs of which are orthogonal to the plane of plate 80 are formed. Such stabs are suitable for use with conventional and contemporary circuit breakers and may be provided without requiring additional space in between the stabs which increased spacing would, in turn, increase the overall size of the housing 10. As shown in Figure 8, the busbar 36 fits onto and into the panel 30 by means of a number of strategically shaped flanges 88 forming spaced pockets 90. The busbar 36 may be used in any application where a plurality of circuit breakers are disclosed in stacked; i.e., spaced parallel relationship within a housing.

VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (First Amendment) In combination:

a housing for electrical devices including at least one panel having an opening formed therein;

[the] an electrical cable output port member adapted to be removably secured to said panel in substantial registry with said opening;

said outlet port member comprising [the] a plurality of cable outlet ports each defined by integral means for unidirectionally resisting passage of an electrical cable there through[.]; and

a conductive metallic busbar mounted to said housing and having a plurality of uniformly spaced, parallel stabs projecting into the interior of said housing to receive circuit breakers in operable association therewith[.];

wherein said electrical cable outlet port member is formed with peripheral fingers which straddle the peripheral edge of said opening in the installed position whereby said electrical cable outlet port member may slide into and out of said opening.

3. (First Amendment) The apparatus as defined in claim 1

wherein said panel further comprises a peripheral flange and a seat around said opening, said electrical cable outlet port member in the installed position resting within said opening and on said seat, said combination further comprising means for securing said electrical cable outlet port member within said opening.

Cancel claim 5.

6. (First Amendment) The apparatus as defined in claim [5] 1 further comprising a cover which is removably securable to said housing for retaining said member in the installed position.

Cancel claim 10.

Cancel claim 11.

12. (New) A busbar for use in making electrical connections to circuit breakers in an electrical housing comprising:

the integral combination of a plate of conductive metal having a strip-like configuration, a plurality of L-shaped openings formed in said strip-like configuration at regularly, longitudinally spaced intervals therealong and opening to one peripheral edge of the plate; and

a plurality of L-shaped plate-like stabs integral with said plate, each having a first longitudinal leg and a second transverse leg projecting from said peripheral edge of said plate, said plate-like stabs being defined in part by said L-shaped openings whereby said plate-like stabs may be folded out of the plane of said plate into a configuration wherein each of said first and second legs is orthogonal to said plate and the second transverse legs project transversely of said plate.

13. (New) A method for forming a busbar of the type having a planar, rectangular plate of conductive metal having a longitudinal axis and a plurality of orthogonal stabs projecting upwardly and outwardly from the plane of said plate in parallel, regularly spaced relationship to one another formed by the process comprising the steps of:

a. forming a plurality of regularly spaced L-shaped stabs in said plate as integral planar elements thereof to define in each stab a first leg portion directly contiguous with said plate and extending longitudinally therewith and a

second leg portion contiguous with the first leg portion and extending transversely outwardly from said plate and, thereafter,

b. bending said stabs along parallel transverse lines between the first legs and said plates such that both legs of each stab are orthogonal to said plates and the height of the transverse leg is independent of the spacing between said stabs.